Child Safety Restraint

DESCRIPTION

[Para 1] FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to restraining devices suitable for retaining a *child* in a seating compartment of a *shopping-cart,* a baby-carriage, so-called "stroller", high chair or the like.

[Para 2] BACKGROUND

A problem encountered by many mothers is that active children can injure themselves by climbing out of a *shopping cart* while the mother is distracted. Various restraining devices have been disclosed by people trying to solve this problem. Concerned that a *child* might be injured falling out of one of their *shopping* carts, some supermarket owners and *shopping cart* manufactures have provided *safety* devices. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,550,800 dated Nov. 5, 1985 discloses a *shopping cart safety* belt with an adjustable loop at one end, which is placed around the *child's* waist, and a snap fastener at the other end which is fastened to the *shopping cart*. A drawback of this kind of restraining device is that a *child's* buttocks generally are smaller than its torso, so the *child* can wriggle upwards out of the loop. Several patents have been obtained in the past for various safety devices used to keep children safely seated within apparatus such as shopping carts, strollers, high chairs and the like: U.S. Pat. No. 4,324,430 dated Apr. 13; U.S. Pat. No. 4,637,622 dated Jan. 20, 1987; U.S. Pat. No. 4,561,676 dated Dec. 31, 1985; U.S. Pat. No. 4,795,216 dated Jan. 3, 1990; U.S. Pat. No. 4,650,252 dated Mar. 17, 1987.

[Para 3] These *child* restraint devices indicate that there is a need for a safe way to secure a *child in a shopping cart, stroller, high chair or the like,* but generally are not sufficiently secure because the *child* can wiggle out or are so complicated that they are unlikely to be used by the typical shopper who has

neither the time nor the patience. Many different customers must use the *shopping* carts and their children will be of all shapes and sizes so it is important that the *child* restraint be quick and easy to use.

[Para 4] Concerned that a *child* might be injured falling out of one of their *shopping* carts, some supermarket owners have tried providing *safety* devices but they were not used because they were not simple and easy to use and adjust. It will be appreciated that many different customers will use the *shopping* carts and their children will be of all shapes and sizes.

An object of the present invention is to provide a restraining device which is readily adapted for use with a variety of different seat-bearing devices, such as a *shopping cart,* a "stroller", or a dining (high) chair, and is easily adjusted to accommodate children of different shapes and sizes.

[Para 5] BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided a *shopping cart,* baby carriage, high chair, or the like, comprising a seating compartment for an infant, said seating compartment being defined by a seat, a front frame member defining openings for the *legs* of an infant seated therein, a rear frame member spaced from the front wall and serving as a seat back, and opposing side frame members. Preferably, a crotch member extends between said seat and said front frame member so that the infant cannot slide through the front of the seating compartment and the straps can optionally be attached to crotch bar. In use, the *straps* are placed around each of a *child's* legs. The *straps* are attached in the middle, between the *child's* legs. The *straps* can optionally be attached to the *shopping-cart,* baby carriage, or the like by fastening optional straps around the crotch bar. The invention comprises a restraining device comprising a pair of *straps,* attached together in the middle with two straps at opposite sides of the middle, four straps in total. Each strap having releasable fastening means at each end portion thereof, each releasable fastening means comprising first and second parts spaced apart along the end portion such that the end portion forms a loop when the first and second parts

are fastened together, each said end portion being looped around the child's legs.